



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 • 415 864-8000 • FAX 415 431-5860 • E-MAIL: office@annunciation.org

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January 2006

THE CATHEDRAL TURNS 85!

As one can readily see from the letter below, the Cathedral was founded in 1921, specifically, in June, 1921. Originally, it was called "The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia." Notice the seal on the left hand side of the letter. It notes the year 1921 and shows an engraving of the Great Church of Christ, Aghia Sophia in Constantinople. Also, note that St. Sophia was established under the presidency of Metropolitan Meletios Metaxakis, who later became Ecumenical Patriarch. Also, the President of the parish was the Reverend Philaretos Johannides, and the Secretary of the parish was the Reverend Pythagoras Caravellas. Philaretos later went on to become Bishop of Chicago, and Father Caravellas became the second priest of St. Sophia. In the letter, monies collected for the capital campaign, in the form of promissory notes, are being forwarded to the bank for deposit.

In 1927, when St. Sophia was relocated from Hayes and Pierce Streets, to Valencia Street, it retained its cathedral status. However, in 1936, due to the economic situation, St. Sophia became bankrupt and reorganized, this time as the Annunciation. It bought back its property on Valencia Street, from the Bank of Italy. The Bank of Italy later became the Bank of America. Except for a period in the 1950's, when the cathedral was relocated to Los Angeles' St. Sophia, under Bishop Athenagoras Kokkinakis, the Cathedral for the Diocese, now the Metropolis of San Francisco, has always been here.

We celebrate our 85th year,

not only as a cathedral, but as a parish, and look forward to the future with optimism, as we continue to serve. Much has been said about a gala celebration later this year. As this issue of the

Herald goes to press, we are meeting to explore just how to celebrate. Meanwhile, we wish our entire Cathedral family a happy new year, and our Cathedral, a happy 85th!



The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of "Saint Sophia"

San Francisco, Cal. August 17th 1921

PRESIDENT
THE METROPOLITAN OF ATHENS
The Most Rev. Mr. Meletios Metaxakis

SECRETARY
L. E. Alimias

TREASURER
C. D. Anagnostis

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Philaretos Johannides
Michael D. Thomas
K. Sarandiras
John Milonas
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Guar. Molakides
James Olafskides
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OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
FOR BUILDING FUND
619 HEWES BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Bank of Italy
San Francisco Cal.

Gentlemen--

We enclose you herewith three prom. notes as follows.

No 48 Angelakis Bros Newma Cal. 500.00 Dollars
He has already paid as note shows 50.00 dollars
in Cash, Balance to paid in 6 monthly equal installments.

No 53 Theodore Nicou 431 Clement ave 300.00 dollars
Cash Paid \$ 100.00, Balance of \$ 200.00 to be paid
in 8 monthly equal installments.

Stam. Johannides 831 Oak St. 50.00 dollars
Cash Paid \$ 10.00 Balance of \$ 40.00 to be paid
in 4 monthly equal installments.

As you will noticed some of the notes (monthly payments have been overdue. We have been delayed in depositing them as above parties have been absent from city and could not secure their signatures.

Yours very truly
Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St Sophia

Secretary

Rev. P. Caravellas

President

Rev. Ph. Johannides



EIGHT ELECTED TO PARISH COUNCIL; SWEARING IN SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

On Sunday, December 11, 2005, parishioners cast votes for the eight candidates for Parish Council, as follows: **Michael Bagatelos**, 63 votes; **John Coundouris**, 56 votes; **Thomas A. Nuris**, 66 votes; **Nikolas Stathopoulos**, 60 votes; **Nicholas Svetcoff**, 54 votes; **George Vlahos**, 58 votes; **James D. Vorris**, 59 votes; and **Gus Vouchilas**, 66 votes. The eight will join **John Sooklaris**, **Nicholas J. Rally**, **Patricia Aleck**, **George Ambadiotakis Ambus**, **Nick Kontonis**, **Peter Manetas**, and **Michael Misthos**, who in 2004 were elected to a two-year term, and, together with **Father Stephen**, will comprise the Parish Council for 2006.

They will recite the oath of office at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, on Sunday, January 8. Prior to the start of the regular Parish Council meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, the officers for the 2006 Parish Council will be elected.

ON STEWARDSHIP AND YOU

On Saturday, December 10th, 2005, our Parish Council met with **Father James Retelas** (our second priest here at the Cathedral from 1987-1992), who is currently the Pastor of the Annunciation Church in Sacramento. While at his previous parish of the Holy Trinity in Portland, Oregon, Father Jim took a sabbatical, during which time he took courses on fund raising in non profit organizations and, specifically, in churches. He shared with us some of what he learned during that time. We would like to share some of these with you.

1) Father Jim spoke of the overall mission of the Church, which imparts the message of salvation. The Church is about changing lives, by bringing people to Christ: it is about saving lives. This is a message which appeals to the very core of our being: it appeals to the human heart. Because the Church represents the loftiest of human goals, which are ultimate meaning and connection with God, people give both because of the integrity of those leading the effort; they also give because they are asked. People give to people; they do not give to causes. Let us take stewardship. The goal has to be clear: the goal is to operate the church and fund its ministries. Then, the message has to be communicated. It is communicated through the clergy. It also is communicated through the lay leaders. As these people are committed to the cause, their message is seen to be sincere. When they ask you for your gift, you are likely to respond. People respond when the appeal is clear and when it is focused.

2) Father Jim also shared with us the need to establish goals and to take steps to attain these goals. With respect to stewardship, the goal is that your commitment for the year should take care of the entire budget of the parish. For example, if the budget for the year is \$700,000, then we should strive to raise the entire amount from the stewardship commitment of our faithful. This, of course, can not be achieved overnight; it takes education, willingness, and development. How is this to be done? It is done by setting a standard of giving. The most equitable

and proven standard is for each family to commit \$1 per week for each \$1000 of income. To illustrate, if a family earns \$50,000 a year, the standard would be \$1 times 50, or \$50 per week. This translates into approximately \$2500 per year. We are asked to get into the habit of thinking in terms of what we can give per week. In this way, our giving goals become clear and attainable. Our Archdiocese has identified as the stewardship theme for 2006 the image of Christ the Sower, that is, the one who spreads the seed.

In a few days, you will be receiving a letter from the Cathedral's Stewardship Committee. The letter asks you to review your commitment and to adopt the goal of the standard of giving \$1 a week per \$1000 of annual income. We trust that you will give this your prayerful consideration. For, we are all called to continue to sow the seeds of our Faith and the Good News of our salvation in Christ.

CRAB FEED SOLD OUT

No sooner were letters and flyers mailed to our parishioners announcing the Crab Feed, which will take place Friday, January 20th, and inviting your participation, than, thanks to your overwhelming response, was completely sold out within two weeks! That's incredible. This is our 24th Annual Crab Feed, as you know, and a major fund raiser for the Philoptochos, which gives out over \$25,000 a year in support to various charities and needy individuals.

The cocktail reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Attended parking will be available. We thank you for your overwhelming response, again this year.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Angel Tree Project sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos of the Cathedral was very successful and we wish to thank all parishioners who brought gifts for the children and those that gave money for our community outreach project.

The gifts were donated to FranDelJa Enrichment Center located at 950 Gilman Avenue in the Southeast region of San Francisco, which includes the communities of Bayview Hunter's Point/Double Rock, Visitacion Valley and Portero Hill. This center is a non-profit state licensed child development center serving children ages 0 to 13 years of age. The money which was donated will be used to purchase additional items that this center needs for their ongoing operations.

We feel that this was a most deserving center to donate the wonderful gifts which you the parishioners so generously gave towards this effort. As a new organization, FranDelJa offers a comprehensive program intent on meeting the needs of the children and families through primary preventive early intervention and additional support services. FranDelJa is a unique childcare agency in that FranDelJa is not only located in the community, it is the community.

We certainly hope that our parishioners feel that in some way they have made a difference in a young child's life by giving them a gift.

Again, thank you for supporting our Philoptochos in such a big way. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS **VASILOPITA JANUARY 8**

As we do every year, so also on Sunday, January 8th, Philoptochos is sponsoring the annual Vasilopita, or "St. Basil's bread." Named so after St. Basil the Great, one of the "three hierarchs," who lived in the 4th century, and whose Divine Liturgy we celebrate on his feast day, January the first, and on other solemn days during the year, Vasilopita contains a coin. Whoever finds the coin is said to be especially blessed during the New Year. The origin of inserting a coin into the bread goes back to St. Basil himself, who hid gold coins in bread and distributed the bread anonymously among the poor people in his Diocese in Cappadocia (the middle part of modern day Turkey). This enabled the poor girls in the Diocese to be married, since the gold coins provided the dowry, which a young girl was required to have, at that time, in order for her to be married.

This year the Philoptochos is sponsoring a brunch, following the Divine Liturgy. We invite you all to attend the brunch. The donation is \$10 per person (\$5 for children 12 and under). Proceeds of the brunch will go to support the students at St. Basil's Academy, which is located in Garrison, New York. Originally an orphanage, the institution, which is administered by our Archdiocese, is the property of the Philoptochos. The brunch, therefore, is worthy of our support.

ARCHDIOCESE ORATORICAL **COMMITTEE TO MEET JANUARY 19**

As reported in our December Herald, our Metropolis, and specifically, our Annunciation Cathedral, will host the 2006 Oratorical Festival, which will take place beginning Friday, June 2, with the arrival of finalists from throughout the country and their families, and ending Sunday, June 4, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, a luncheon, and departure.

The finalists and their families will be housed at the Sheraton Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf and, following the Festival itself, which will take place at the Cathedral on Saturday, June 3, and a celebratory luncheon afterwards (both events open to the community), they will be taken on a tour of San Francisco and perhaps a boat cruise in the evening. On Friday, June 2, following their arrival, we will hold Vespers at Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco, followed by a meal and a social. On Sunday, June 4, the Divine Liturgy will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont, followed by a luncheon and departure.

The initial committee consists of the following:
Publicity: Father Michael Tervo and Frosene Phillips
Transportation/Housing: Paul Sogotis and Presvytera Alexandra Pappas
Judges: Dr. Anton Vrame and Patricia Aleck
Finances: Nick Tarlson, Father Constantine Efstathiou, Michael Misthos, and Father John Roll
Reunion: Presvytera Matia Prevas
Logo: Father Peter Salmas
Photographer/Video: Natalie Schrik (also minutes)
Registration/Materials: Presvytera Fotini Roll, Marie

Eliades, Fran Corcoran, Bruce Corcoran, Katherine Kaplanis, and Presvytera Kay Efstathiou
Archdiocese Coordinators: Presvytera Margaret Orfanakos and Father Frank Marangos (Fr. Frank is Director of the Archdiocese Department of Religious Education)

Host Committee Co-chairs: Father Stephen Kyriacou, Denise Yeilding and Peter Sotiras.

The next meeting of the committee will take place in the Cathedral's second floor conference room Thursday, January 19. If you wish to assist in the planning of this St. John Chrysostom Archdiocese Oratorical Festival, please speak with Father Stephen, following the Sunday Divine Liturgy or by calling him, at 415 864-8000.

DR. ANTON VRAME TO SPEAK AT **CATHEDRAL MARCH 4**

The Cathedral is pleased to announced that Dr. Anton Vrame, Ph.D., Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute and Assistant Professor of Orthodox Christian Studies at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, will be our first Lenten series speaker this year. He will speak, following the Liturgy, on Saturday, March 4, on the general topic: What Does it Mean to Be Orthodox? The conference will take place, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with time for questions, discussion, and lunch. The donation will be \$10, just to cover the cost of the lunch. We look forward to Dr. Vrame's speaking, and on a topic that is pertinent and vital, especially in our growing age of relativism and, simultaneously, religious indifference and even hostility on the one hand, and an ever more vocal religious right on the other.

Dr. Vrame is a native of Chicago, holding degrees from DePaul University (B.A.) and the University of Chicago (M.A.) A 1989 graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (M.Div.), he worked as Associate Director of the Department of Religious Education, specifically focusing on the creation of the Living Our Orthodox Faith curriculum series as well as other projects. In 1997, he received the Ph.D. in Theology and Education from Boston College. He is the author of "The Educating Icon: Teaching Wisdom and Holiness in the Orthodox Way," editor of "The Orthodox Parish in America: Faithfulness to the Past, Responsible for the Future." He has published articles on issues in Christian Education in English and Greek in academic journals. He taught Christian education at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. He is Vice President of the Orthodox Theological Society of America.

DIRECTORY

We thank you, our Cathedral parishioners, supporting businesses, and friends, for updating the information which will be included in our 2006 directory. The information has been forwarded to our Productive Printing for processing and printing. The 2006 directory, which will include your names, addresses, work/home phone numbers (no cell numbers), and E-mail addresses, will be forwarded to you within the next two weeks.

LEARNING COMMUNITY RESUMES JANUARY 19

Our Thursday evening study, begun by **Father Paul Schroeder**, is being continued by **Father Stephen**. Our theme for last semester's study has been "Building the New City." We focused on the Ten Commandments ("You shall have no other gods before me..." Exodus 20:1-12) and the Beatitudes ("Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven..." Matthew 5:1-12), reflecting on how these important texts from the Old and New Testaments might help us to envision and create a new world, a "new heaven and a new earth, where justice abides" (II Peter 3:13). We also read a book together: *The Ladder of the Beatitudes* by Jim Forest.

The class, along with Father Stephen, are in the process of formulating this semester's class. Needless to say, it will be as engaging as last semester's, since it involves not only study, but relating the Scripture to current events, scholarship, and research, and praying for ill and needy members of our immediate community, and beyond. Learning Community goes hand in hand with Community Link, an outreach program, whereby members visit home bound, hospitalized, and institutionalized parishioners.

REMARKS OFFERED BY FATHER STEPHEN AT ONE YEAR MEMORIAL FOR METROPOLITAN ANTHONY

Father Stephen was asked by **Metropolitan Gerasimos** to offer remarks following the Divine Liturgy, at the Monastery of the Theotokos, the Living Spring on the occasion of the one year memorial for **Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco**. Following are his remarks in English.

To some of us he was brother, and uncle; to others, fellow hierarch and friend; to all of us our Metropolitan and spiritual Father. As we gather this first anniversary -save a week- of his passing, our thoughts are directed to that seminal scripture which defines the High Priest. In the fifth chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews, we read: "Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins." Here, the writer focuses not on the human nature of the hierarch, wrought, as it were, in the weakness of our humanity, but, rather, on the nature of service.

Metropolitan Anthony was "put in charge of things pertaining to God on our behalf, in order to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins." Does, then, his falling asleep end our relationship as brother or uncle or concelebrant or as children to their spiritual father? The writer to the Hebrews here quotes the Psalmist: (110.4) "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." The writer enjoins it to underscore the eternal nature of the High Priesthood of Christ. But then he goes on to develop the belief that the earthly High Priest participates in the High Priesthood of Christ. And what shares defies, or survives, death. Love does that. Moreover, the Church

infers from the total body of Scripture the continuance of life: indeed the Gospel read at funerals has Jesus speak of death as *Metavasis*, or Crossing Over, from death to life.

We can be reassured, therefore, that Metropolitan Anthony continues to pray on our behalf, to plead our case before the throne of God, in his own inimitable way, persevering to the end, until, so to speak, he gets his way, as he did in life. With this understanding, then, we hear the words of St. Paul in that earliest of Christian writings---his letter to the Thessalonians-exhorting us to grieve, but not as those who have no hope. It is hope that brings us to this sacred place of the living spring, which he established. Hope gathers us to **pray** for his soul, to **ponder**, as the **preacher-poet John Donne** observed in his 17th Meditation, "when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language," to **pledge** to continue the good fight. It is this we have endeavored to do this past year, to the best of our abilities, and with all the strength that God has given us. We are not bereft, Your Eminence. We were blessed to be his... And, now, with your coming, the Metropolis is blessed again, as it goes on to articulate new visions, for the glory of God's Holy Name.

May his memory be eternal, in our lives, as surely it is in God's, and may God grant you many years, that you may continue to teach aright the word of His Truth.

EDUCATION INTRODUCING THE ORTHODOX CHURCH RESUMES JANUARY 8

This course, which has resulted in a number of adult baptisms/chrisinations, is being offered Sunday mornings 9-10 a.m. **Father Stephen Kyriacou** and **Father Gregory Ofiesh** teach this course alternately. We invite those who wish to explore, or learn more about the Orthodox Faith to attend these sessions. The sessions are required for those who wish to be received into the Orthodox Church through Baptism or, if already baptized in another church in the Name of the Holy Trinity, through chrismation.

FESTIVAL 2006: SAVE THE DATE

Our 2006 Food Festival will take place on our church grounds at 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Friday through Sunday, September 15, 16th and 17th. **Foula Vasilogiorgis** is this year's chairman. Let us all assist her in this monumental undertaking, for the benefit of our community. A planning meeting will be held Tuesday, January 24, at 7 p.m. in the second floor conference room.

SERVICE IN DECEMBER

BAPTISM


On December 4, the Feast of St. Barbara, **Fatima Selim** was received into the Church through Baptism and Chrismation. She has taken on the Christian name, **Barbara**.

Na mas zisi! (Long life!)

Annunciation Cathedral Calendar of Events

January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Parish Council Swearing-In Annual Vasilopeta Brunch Dance Practice as scheduled		7 - Philoptochos Meeting 7 - Book Committee 6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice	4-6 - Greek School 6:30-Basketball Practice 7 - Byzantine Chant 7:30 - Open Gym 7:30 - Dance Practice 7-TALKS WITH FATHER	9 - Great Hours 10 - Vespers Liturgy 6:30-Basketball Practice 7 - LearningCommunity 7 - GOYA Meeting	EPIPHANY 9 - Orthros 10:00 - Blessing of the Waters 10:15 - Liturgy	ST. JOHN 10 - Liturgy Dance Practice as scheduled
1	2	3	4	5	6	+ 7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Basketball Games as scheduled Dance Practice as scheduled		6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice	4-6 - Greek School 6:30-Basketball Practice 7 - Byzantine Chant 7:30 - Open Gym	6:30-Basketball Practice 7 - LearningCommunity	Annual Crab Feed 6 - Reception 7:30 - Dinner	Dance Practice as scheduled
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Basketball Games as scheduled Dance Practice as scheduled		6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice 7 - Festival Meeting	4-6 - Greek School 6:30-Basketball Practice 7 - Byzantine Chant 7:30 - Open Gym	6:30-Basketball Practice 7 - LearningCommunity		Dance Practice as scheduled
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Basketball Games as scheduled Dance Practice as scheduled	THREE HIERARCHS 10 - Liturgy	6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice		SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9 am - Orthros 10:30 - Divine Liturgy 10:30 - Sunday School 12:30 - Greek Bible Study		
29	30	31				



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ΝΕΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΥ

ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΗΤΑΣ

Καλείσθε όλοι στην γιορτή της Βασιλόπητας, που θα γίνει μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία στην μεγάλη αίθουσα του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού, αφού σερβιριστεί γεύμα από τις κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητας. Η προσφορά για το γεύμα είναι \$10 το άτομο (\$5 για παιδιά 12 χρόνων και κάτω). Τα καθαρά κέρδη θα σταλούν για την ενίσχυση της Ακαδημίας του Αγίου Βασιλείου εις την Νέαν Υόρκη.

Την ίδια ημέρα, μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία, θα ακολουθήσει η ορκωμοσία των νέων μελών του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου... **Μιχάλη Μπαγατέλου**, με 63 ψήφους, **Γιάννη Κουντούρη**, με 56 ψήφους, **Αθανασίου Νούρη**, με 66 ψήφους, **Νίκο Σταθοπούλου**, με 60 ψήφους, **Νίκου Σβέτκοφ**, με 54 ψήφους, **Γιώργου Βλάχου**, με 58 ψήφους, **Δημήτρη Βορρίση**, με 59 ψήφους, και **Κώστα Βουτσιλιά**, με 66 ψήφους. Τα οκτώ αυτά μέλη, μαζί με τα επτά που εξελέγησαν πέρυσι, αποτελούν το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο για το έτος 2006. Το Συμβούλιο θα ψηφίσει τους αξιωματούχους του όταν συνεδριάσει, στις 18 Ιανουαρίου.

ΟΜΙΛΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΟΣ ΣΤΥΛΙΑΝΟΥ ΣΤΟ ΕΤΗΣΙΟ ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΟ ΤΟΥ ΔΕΙΜΝΗΣΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΟΥ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ Κ. ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ, ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΙΕΡΑΝ ΜΟΝΗΝ ΤΗΣ ΖΩΟΔΟΧΟΥ ΠΗΓΗΣ, ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ, 18 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Σεβασμιώτατε,

Εις τον Εμμανουήλ και εις την Ελευθερίαν Γερμανιάκη, το έτος 1935, εις την Αυγενικήν της Κρήτης, γεννήθηκε παιδίον νέον, γεμάτο ζωή, γεμάτο πίστη, γεμάτο αισιοδοξία, γεμάτο όνειρα. Δεν πρόλαβε να μεγαλώσει· μεσολάβησε η κατοχή· ήρθε και ο πόλεμος. Ή μάλλον οι πόλεμοι, και κείνος εναντίον των κατακτητών, και ο πιδό σκοτεινός, εκείνος που χωρίζει αδελφία, και φθείρει την ιερότητα της οικογένειας, ο εμφύλιος. Αυτά, όμως επηρέασαν τον νεαρό Αντώνιο θετικά· αντί μίσος, τον γέμισαν αγάπη, αντι αποθάρρυνση, πίστη, αντί απελπιστικότητα, αισιοδοξία.

Όλο και οραματιζότανε πως να κάνει το μέλλον πιο λαμπρό, πιο ειρηνικό. Πως να συμβάλλει στη δημιουργία μιάς κοινωνίας πιο δικαίας. Πως να διαιωνίσει την Ορθόδοξη Χριστιανική πίστη στον Τριαδικό Θεό και τα πατροπαράδοτα ιδανικά της φιλής μας και του έθνους μας, αυτά που ενώνουν και εξυψώνουν τον άνθρωπο και τον κάνουν πράξει δημιουργήματα κατ' εικόνα και καθ' ομοίωση του Θεού. Επικλήθηκε την βοήθεια του ποσάτη αγίου του χωρίου, του Αγίου Γεωργίου, και την ευχή της μάνας.

Και έτσι άρχισε η μεγάλη πορεία--το ταξίδι εκείνο της ζωής του, που τον πήγε πρώτα στην Βασιλευ-ούσα Πόλη, για να πιεί το αθάνατο γάλα της Μητρός Εκκλησίας, αυτό που θα τον εφοδίαζε για την τρίτη μεγάλη στάση, την Αμερική. Με αποφασιστικότητα ήρθε, σπούδασε, υπηρέτησε, κατατοπίστηκε, έμαθε και την γλώσσα αλλά και την νοοτροπία, ανθρώπων και θεσμών. Αναγνωρίζοντας την δραστηριότητα του, την δημιουργικότητά του, η Εκκλησία τον ύψωσε στο μέγιστο αξίωμα της Αρχιεροσύνης και τον διόρισε, μετά από λίγους μήνες στο Ντένβερ, σε τούτη την Θεοσώστη Επαρχία την πάλαι ποτέ Επισκοπή, νυν Μητρόπολη της Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Από την πρώτη ημέρα της ελεύσεώς του, αφού ενθρονίσθηκε, άρχισε να εμπνέει νέο πνεύμα στην Εκκλησία, στις οργανώσεις, στους θεσμούς--το πνεύμα της δημιουργικότητας. Να ιδρύει -- όχι μονάχα να κτίζει --κοινότητες, όσες βρήκε άλλες τόσες, οργανώσεις και σωματεία άλλα τόσα. Ταμεία για ενίσχυση ιεροσπουδαστών, πτωχών, και άλλων, από τα μη όντα εις το είναι παραγαγών. Να περικυκλώνει άτομα με ειδικά ταλέντα, να συλλέγει μέλη της οικογένειάς του, τὰ αδελφία του, και τα παιδιά τους, και να τα εγκαθιστά γύρω του. Να εισάγει στην Μητρόπολή του τον μοναχισμό. Να δημιουργεί και να καλλιεργεί ως τίποτε άλλο το στολίδι της διακονίας και την Μίτρα της Αρχιεροσύνης του--το ίδρυμα αυτό του Αγίου Νικολάου και την Ιερά Μονή της Ζωοδόχου Πηγής... Νενίκηκε. Όχι Σολομών. Αλλά το σκότος, την δισπιστία και την απιστία, την αμαρτία· κτίζοντας τον ιερών αυτό

χώρο όπου η αιωνία προσευχή αιωνίως κατευθύνεται ως θυμίαμα ενώπιον του Κυρίου. Διο και επέλεξε εδώ και ένα χρόνο αυτό το χρώμα να σκεπάσει το σώμα του ενώ προσδοκεί ανάσταση νεκρών και ζωήν των μέλλοντος αιώνος... Δεν ήλθαμε, Σεβασμιώτατε, να θυμηθούμε μονάχα, με την ευκαιρία της επετείου της μεταβάσεως αυτού εκ του θανάτου εις την ζωήν, αλλά να προσευχηθούμε για την μακαρία ανάπαυση της ψυχής του, ακόμα να υποσχεθούμε να συνεχίσουμε την πορεία του καλού ποιμένος του τιθέντος την ψυχήν αυτού υπέρ των προβάτων. Με την ευλογία του. Με την ευχή του.

Την ευχήν του την έχετε, Σεβασμιώτατε, Άγιε Αγίου Φραγίσκου, την ευχήν του την έχετε, Θεοφιλέστατε Άγιε Ολύμπου, φίλτατε συνεργάτα του, την ευχήν του την έχετε, Αγία Ηγουμένη, την ευχήν του την έχετε, σεβαστή οικόγενεια, την ευχήν του την έχομε, αγαπητοί αδελφοί πάντες. Επιτραπέιω μοι όπως ευχηθώ, το νεο γεννηθέν βρέφος, που είναι η Ανάστασις και η Ζωή, χαρίζει εσάς, Σεβασμιώτατε, ταις Εκκλησίας Αυτού εν ειρήνη, σόον, έντιμον, υγεία, μακροημερεύοντα, και ορθοτομούντα τον λόγον της Αυτού αληθείας.

Αιωνία αυτού η μνήμη. Εις πολλά έτη, Δέσποτα.

ΚΑΤΑΛΟΓΟΣ ΜΕΛΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΥ ΜΑΣ ΝΑΟΥ

Ευχαριστούμε τα μέλη και τους φίλους του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού για την γρήγορη ανταπόκριση τους στο ερωτηματολόγιο που εστάλη πρόσφατα εν σχέσει με τον κατάλογο που 2006. Έτσι, η διανομή του καταλόγου προβλέπεται να γίνει στις επόμενες δύο εβδομάδες.

ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΓΙΑ ΕΝΗΛΙΚΟΥΣ

Το μάθημα Τι Είναι η Ορθόδοξη Πίστη, για προσήλυτους αλλά και για όλους όσοι επιθυμούν να μάθουν περισσότερα για την διδασκαλία της Εκκλησίας μας, διδάσκει τις Κυριακές, 9-10 το πρωί. Επίσης, κάθε Κυριακή, αμέσως μετά την Θ. Λειτουργία, η Μαρίνα Τεύλор συνεχίζει το μάθημα της Βιβλικής μελέτης, με θέμα, εφέτος, η Αποκάλυψη του Ιωάννου. Το μάθημα αυτό γίνεται στην ελληνική γλώσσα.

Τέλος, κάθε Πέμπτη, 7 με 9 το βράδυ, κάνουμε μάθημα με θέμα "Κτίζοντας την Πόλη." Το μάθημα αυτό, μέχρι το τέλος του Δεκεμβρίου, αναλύει σαν συντελεστικούς παράγοντες τους Μακαρισμούς και τις Δέκα Εντολές.

Καλείσθε όπως παρακολουθήσετε τα διαφωτιστικά αυτά μαθήματα που παρέχει η Κοινότητα μας ειδικά για τα ενήλικα μέλη της

ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΓΙΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ

Ευχαριστούμε τόσο τους γονείς όσον και τους δασκάλους για την επιτυχία μέχρι τώρα του Κατηχητικού μας Σχολείου, σκοπός του οποίου δεν είναι μόνον να μαζεύει τα παιδιά και να τα φροντίζει κατά τη διάρκεια της Θείας Λειτουργίας αλλά, μαζί με τους γονείς, να τα οδηγεί στον δρόμο του Θεού, διδάσκοντας την πατροπαράδοτη και πολυτιμη Ορθόδοξη μας Πίστη.

Επίσης, το Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο λειτουργεί κανονικά, με δασκάλα την Δήμητρα Αρμενάκη, κάθε Τετάρτη 4-6 το απόγευμα. Παροτρύνεσθε όπως φέρνετε τα παιδιά σας και στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο, όχι μόνον για να μάθουν την γλώσσα, αλλά και κάτι από τον πολυτισμό και την ιστορία της Ελλάδας, που θα τα επηρεάσει θετικά για όλη τους τη ζωή.

Πληροφορήσθε προσέτι ότι τα χορευτικά μας συγκροτήματα συνέρχονται κάθε Τρίτη. Τα Αγγελάκια ασκούνται 6:30-7:30 το βράδυ, και στη συνέχεια τα Φιλάδελφια ασκούνται 7:30-8:30 το βράδυ. Η Αρετή (που αποτελείται από ενήλικα παιδιά, ως επί το πλείστον του πανεπιστημίου) μαζί με το συγκρότημα Κύματα, που θα χορεύουν σαν μία ομάδα στο χορευτικό φεστιβάλ, ασκείται τις Κυριακές, 1:30-3 το απόγευμα.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

GOYANS GO CAROLING

On Tuesday, December 20th, some forty youth and advisors went door to door singing Christmas carols. Shown below are some of the youngsters as they prepare to carol in one of our parishioners' homes.

ARETE/KYMATA TO HOST GLENDI SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Arete and Kymata, our two senior groups, which have combined into a single group for purposes of FDF, which will take place the following weekend in San Diego, are hosting a Glendi Saturday, February 11. In addition to serving a meal, the group will perform dances from which they will perform at FDF. Look for a flyer which will be available at the pangari. Additional details will appear in the February Herald.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: A WONDERFUL LEARNING COMMUNITY

As we indicated in previous editions of the Herald, Sunday School is in the forefront of our religious educational endeavors. Thanks go to the parents, who encourage their children's participation (we have about 150 enrolled in the program), and to our dedicated team of teachers, who volunteer their time to teach and share our Orthodox Christian Faith. We all enjoyed the Christmas program, so beautifully prepared and presented by our children, our teachers, and, of course, our choir.

For your convenience, a list of our staff for 2005-2006 is as follows:
Pre-Kindergarten:

Sophie Makras and Erika Panagiotopoulos

Kindergarten: **Elizabeth Yisak and Zaid Tewelde**

First Grade: **Effie Vellis and Paula Kitses**

Second Grade: **Elaine Makras**

Third/Fourth Grades:

Mary Tonas and Annette Chiappari

Fifth/Sixth Grades: **Maria Allen and Tina Kontonis**

Seventh/Eighth Grades:

Gus Vouchilas and Eleni Kalligeros

High School: **Caroline Pappajohn and Father Gregory**

Denise Yeilding is our Principal.

The program operates under the supervision of our Dean, **Father Stephen**, and our religious education committee. Together with classroom instruction, "teaching" Liturgies, projects and programs, as the St. John Oratorical Festival and the Christmas Pageant, our school is a wonderful learning community, where learning, caring and sharing converge, inspired by our Orthodox Christian Faith.

During the course of the year, our young people are given flyers announcing any number of curricular and extra curricular activities. We invite our parents to review them with your children and assist in any way you can, as we endeavor to help your children and one another grow in knowledge of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

TALKS WITH FATHER WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

A monthly gathering of our teenagers, entitled "Talks with Father," aims to engage our young people in a discussion of issues of special concern to them and how answers to these concerns can be found in the Bible and in the Life of the Church (e.g. in worship, and in the writings of the Church Fathers).

Our next gathering will take place Wednesday, January 3rd. We will meet promptly at 7 p.m. In preparation, our teens are asked to explore the Archdiocese Web Site, goarch.org, and print out one article, short or long, which they have read and which they find interesting enough to share with the group. Later in January, we plan to go to **Father Gregory's** home for food and a swim (he has an indoor pool).



GREEK SCHOOL

Our Greek School, under the direction of **Demetra Armenakis**, offers a class for children, grades two and up. The class is held in the second floor conference room Wednesdays, 4 to 6 p.m. We currently have eight students. We are endeavoring to grow the program by proceeding not only with the teaching of the Greek language, but an appreciation for Greek history and culture as well. Won't you consider sending your children to Greek School?

"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"

by Michael Canellos

It is said that Angels are the heralds of the Lord, celestial messengers who trumpet God's words and assist us in dire times. It was in early November that I encountered an angel. Not in the physical or spiritual sense, but rather on the HallMark Network watching one of their memorable and heartwarming movies.

The story revolved around a hardworking but overzealous father who in his quest to achieve a "richer" life for his family, inadvertently alienated himself from those he so dearly loved. As Christmas quickly approached, his family's despondency increased. Lost, isolated, and forlorn, the father prayed for guidance. To his wonderment, an angel appeared proclaiming that the solution to the father's dilemma could be found in the true gift of Christmas. If the father could discover the gift by Christmas Eve, harmony would be restored. In his revelation, the angel further noted that this most precious gift, could be found in but a single word.

Without hesitation, I immediately answered, "love"! Moments later the father too responded with the word "love". The angel explained, that although all of God's gifts personify his love, and therefore indeed love is an intricate element of the gift, it is not the true gift of Christmas.

Perplexed, frustrated, and a bit embarrassed, I found myself competing with the movie characters to be the first to answer this enigmatic question. After carefully scrutinizing every distinctive feature of the birth of our Savior; the struggle, the love, the peace and the goodwill, I suddenly realized that through the birth of his son Jesus Christ, God had bestowed upon mankind the most precious gift possible..... eternal life!

Enriched, enlightened, and excited, I immediately felt compelled to somehow humbly honor His magnanimity.

I perceived that by working in conjunction with the youth of the Annunciation during the Christmas season, we could perhaps in a small fashion extol His miracle.

Through the love, hard work, and dedication of our Sunday school, our tribute began with the reenactment of the nativity, accompanied by the angelic voices of our youth choir. After a brief genuflection and blessing, the celebration continued with a Lenten lunch (for over 300) served by our teens. We concluded the day's event with a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

Instilled with the spirit and benevolence of Christmas, we felt compelled to share the Blessing

with others who are less fortunate. Working in conjunction with the **San Francisco Aids Foundation**, our Annunciation Cathedral proceeded to host the "19th Annual Women & Family Holiday Party".

With the collaboration of 28 other Bay Area Organizations we helped to provide an evening of Christmas celebration for approximately 500 women and children living with HIV/AIDS. The majority of the guests were of low-income, marginally housed, and in need of the support of their community. As ambassadors of their parish, our youth truly represented the Annunciation with distinction as they served, cleaned, and passed out gifts.

On Tuesday, December 20th, with approximately 40 parents and youth joyfully participating, we concluded our celebration of life by caroling at the homes of some of our parishioners.

I hope that in a small way we have not only been of service to the community but that we have honored the true meaning of Christmas and have helped to light a candle. It is not with large deeds that the world becomes an enlightened and better place, but rather through many small ones.

Please light a candle.

"THANK YOU PHILOPTOCHOS"

In many instances, life is truly a paradox. Often times we work hard and receive nothing in exchange, only the knowledge that you tried. Here, at our beloved Annunciation, there has been one organization whose ministry stands out above all, and yet often times their charitable endeavors are presupposed.

Beginning with the Vasilopita and continuing through the Crab Feed, Easter, Festival, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, the contributions of our Philoptochos seem endless. Although we can never properly thank our "Friends Of The Poor" for their philanthropic deeds, the youth of the Annunciation would nevertheless like to acknowledge them with an "Appreciation Reception" on Saturday, March 4th. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will commence at 5:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:15. A raffle, bingo, and other surprises are on our program. All Philoptochos members will be the "special guests of our youth."

If a Philoptochos member wishes to invite a friend, a \$10.00 donation to defray costs will be appreciated.) For more information, please contact either **Mike Canellos** at 415/864-8815 or **Angie Leventis** at 650/878-2855.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY-JANUARY 8

Our Sunday Bible Study, taught by **Marina Taylor**, following the Divine Liturgy, is an important ministry for our parishioners, particularly those whose native language is Greek. Since this study is held primarily in Greek, we invite those who wish to learn about our Faith in their native language, to attend this wonderful gathering of our faithful.

The topic for this term is an in-depth look at the Book of Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse. In addition to reading the text, the class explores interpretations of the text by the Church Fathers and how these may be applied to our modern day lives and to our faith.

DATES
TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2006
Folk Dance Festival - San Diego
30th Anniversary

MARCH 4, 2004
Philoptochos Appreciation Dinner

JUNE 2-4, 2006
Archdiocese National
Oratorical Festival

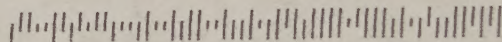
NOVEMBER 11, 2006
Annunciation Cathedral
70th Anniversary
Celebration

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HAPPINESS  
AND  
GOOD HEALTH  
TO  
EVERYONE  
DURING  
ALL OF 2006!

ANNUNCIATION

245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320



Orthodox Institute  
2311 Hearst Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709